

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a patient having breast cancer or breast precancer, said method comprising;

placing a ductal access tool comprising a single lumen in a breast duct of a patient;

infusing a fluid into the duct through the single lumen;

retrieving a ductal fluid sample from the accessed duct through the single lumen;

and

examining the ductal fluid sample to determine the presence of a marker comprising an expression product of a gene encoding a nuclear matrix protein.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 wherein the expression product is a ~~nucleic acid~~ or polypeptide.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the nuclear matrix protein is selected from the group consisting of lamin A, lamin B, lamin C, a peripheral matrix protein, nuclear mitotic spindle apparatus protein (NuMA), Topoisomerase II, and an internal nuclear matrix protein.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of examining comprises contacting the polypeptide with an antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

Claims 21-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the fluid collected is from a single duct.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 wherein a ductal fluid sample[s] ~~are~~ is collected from a plurality of ducts.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the single lumen has an inner diameter large enough to retrieve clusters of greater than 10 cells.

Claims 30-40 (Canceled)